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EDITORIALS.

—THE postoffice department at Washington adopted last year a new style of letter box for cities, which has generally replaced the old ones. This change has been for the worse in one important respect. While the boxes of the new pattern afford better protection from thieves, they are unfit for the reception of second and third class matter generally. The opening is too small, and the fore and aft diameter is too narrow to receive the greater part of such matter. In the attempt to use these boxes for such matter, it is apt to be injured, but usually it cannot be inserted. As the new boxes were not, we learn, intended to exclude such matter, they show a lack of intelligence on the part of both the designer and the department. The old boxes are much more useful, but a new box of the modern pattern, with a wider gape and deeper throat, would be better still. Editors and publishers would be much accommodated by such a change. This would be an improvement much more important than most of the novelties introduced by the last administration of the postoffice department.

—THE International Congress of Zoologists of 1892, was held at Moscow, and was an occasion of much interest. Many important papers were read, a majority of them naturally having reference to various parts of the vast territory under the dominion of the Czar. A peculiar feature of the volume issued by the Congress, which embraces the papers read or abstracts of them, is that it contains a full page portrait of the Grand Duke Serge Alexandrowitch in military costume, as a frontispiece. Below the portrait is a fulsome expression of "veneration and thanks" for aid rendered the Congress by "his imperial highness." This strikes us as strangely out of place in a zoölogical work, and not less so because the Congress was "international." The singing of the Russian national hymn, with which the last session of the Congress was closed, can hardly be regarded as an "international" zoölogical ceremony.

—THE conduct of the authorities of the Chicago Exposition since its close, has not been characterized by that care for the property of the exhibitors and others necessarily under their charge, which should characterize an honorable corporation. The buildings have been left insufficiently guarded, and tramps have had full opportunity to perpetrate mischief. Among these, incendiary fires have been conspicuous,

so that damage has been done to the property of exhibitors, and many narrow escapes have been made. The dismantlement of the fire apparatus has rendered the situation all the more dangerous. Finally the quarters for the shelter of the strangers engaged in moving their exhibits have been rendered uninhabitable at an inclement season of the year. Altogether, the hospitality of Chicago to exhibitors and national commissions has been scanty, and this part of the exposition management does not redound to the credit of the city. It is in marked contrast to that which has characterized the expositions held elsewhere in both Europe and America.

—THE closing of the Allis Biological Laboratory at Milwaukee, is much to be regretted, but as it is due to the financial stringency, it is to be hoped that, with the return of more prosperous times, it will be reopened by its public-spirited and scientific founder.